

February 7, 2006

## **Stenehjem Encourages Public to Attend Tenth Annual “LIFESMARTS” Competition**

BISMARCK – Sixty high school students from across the state will compete in the tenth annual “LifeSmarts” competition tomorrow, announced Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. The competition, which tests teens in grades 9-12 about personal finance, health and safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities, is hosted by the Attorney General’s Office.

The competition will be held at the Heritage Center on the Capitol grounds, beginning at 8:30 am, Wednesday, February 8, and will conclude with the announcement of the championship team at approximately 4:30 pm. The competition is open to the public.

“The LifeSmarts program teaches high school students about consumer rights, fiscal responsibilities, and other basic life skills so they are prepared for challenges they may face in the future,” said Stenehjem. “The competition is tough and the questions reflect real life situations and decisions. I encourage everyone to show up to support the competitors.”

North Dakota high schools competing in the 2006 state competition are:

Bismarck, Center Stanton, Central Cass DECA, Century DECA, Goodrich, Jamestown (2 teams), Kindred, North Central of Barnes, Northern Cass, Pingree Buchanan, and Ray.

While the Consumer Protection Division organizes and hosts the annual state competition, it does not receive state funds. “We have been very lucky to have a number of dedicated businesses across the state that sponsor the competition,” said Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection Division. Those sponsors include: Gate City Bank, Microsoft Business Solutions, Fargo, ND Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Mandan, Capitol Electric Cooperative, Inc., Bismarck, and Capitol Trophy, Bismarck.

The North Dakota champions will have the opportunity to compete at the national competition, held April 22-25, in Philadelphia.